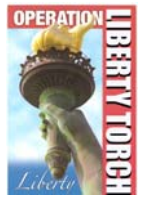




42nd Infantry Division:

Task Force Liberty



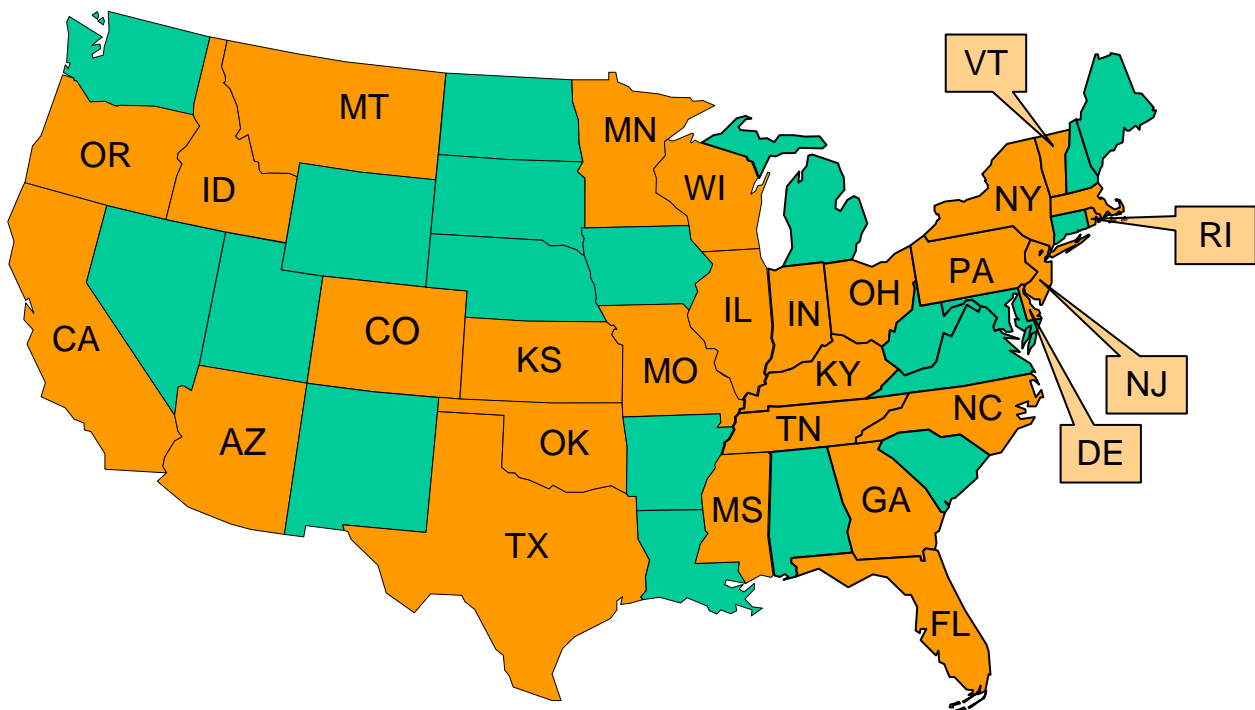
October 28, 2005

Task Force Liberty mission:

- Task Force Liberty conducts stability operations while transitioning counterinsurgency operations to competent Iraqi Security Forces and Ministries in order to establish a secure environment that permits Iraqi self-reliance.

About the Task Force:

- Task Force Liberty serves as the U.S. Coalition Force for Multinational Division-North Central, serving in the four Iraqi provinces of Salah Ah Din, Diyala, Kirkuk and As Sulaymaniyah.
- Nearly 23,000 Soldiers from Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard military units from more than 28 States, Puerto Rico and American Samoa.



- Combat elements from the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams, the Idaho National Guard's 116th Brigade Combat Team and the Tennessee National Guard's 278th Regimental Combat Team
- Partnered with the Iraqi army's 4th and 5th Division and more than 45,000 Iraqi Security Forces throughout the four provinces of Area of Operations (AO) Liberty



About the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division and Task Force Liberty:

- The 42nd Division is known as the “Rainbow Division” from its first formation at Camp Mills, Long Island in 1917. National Guard regiments and units from 26 States and the District of Columbia formed one combat unit for service in World War I. Then-Colonel Douglas MacArthur, the division’s first chief of staff commented that “the division stretches across America like a rainbow.” Soldiers liked the reference and the nickname remained.
- Deployed to France for combat operations in World War I, serving in the battles of Champagne, Chateau-Thierry, St. Mihiel, Verdun and Argonne. The division completed its mission with occupation duties along the Rhine through 1919.
- The 42nd Division reformed in July 1943 for training and deployment to southern Europe to stem the final counteroffensive of World War II on the western front. During combat operations from December 1944 through May 1945, the Rainbow Division liberated some 33,000 inmates of the notorious Concentration Camp Dachau and captured the city of Munich.
- The 42nd Division was reorganized in 1947 as a National Guard combat division based in New York State. Today’s Rainbow Division is one of 18 combat division formations in the entire U.S. Army; there are eight divisions in the National Guard and ten on active duty.
- The Rainbow Division headquarters is based in Troy, NY. The division’s brigades and separate battalions in peacetime are spread across ten States.
- The 42nd Division deployed its Citizen-Soldiers for a multitude of natural disasters and emergency response missions, including the devastating Ice Storm of 1998.
- Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 marks the first mobilization and deployment to a combat theater for the 42nd Infantry Division since WWII.
- Some 3,000 Soldiers from the 42nd Infantry Division mobilized to form the foundation of Task Force Liberty, providing the command and control and base units for the combat formations.
 - The majority of Rainbow Division Soldiers mobilized at Fort Drum, NY or Fort Dix, NJ to conduct equipment fielding and collective training.
 - The Rainbow Division maintains a rear detachment at Fort Drum to provide a link to the unit’s family readiness groups
- The division’s 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, nearly 700 Soldiers from the Army’s famous “Fighting 69th” deployed for combat operations as part of Task Force Baghdad, serving under the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division Headquarters. The “Fighting 69th” successfully reduced insurgent threats to Baghdad’s Route Irish.



Since Sept. 11th, 2001 the 42nd Infantry Division has been fully engaged in the nation's War on Terror:

- More than one thousand 42nd Infantry Division Soldiers deployed to New York City in the aftermath of the terror attacks at the World Trade Center site, providing security, response and recovery to the City of New York as part of their state active duty role for homeland security. The Rainbow Division Headquarters provided command and control for all National Guard forces, including airmen, sailors and Marines in support of the recovery and response mission.
- With Soldiers across ten States, Rainbow Division Soldiers have provided support to the Global War on Terror across the spectrum of operations
 - Rainbow Division Soldiers deployed for Operation Noble Eagle homeland security missions at the nation's airports and borders in the months following September 11th
 - 42nd Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom
 - Hundreds of 42nd Division Artillery Soldiers from New York and New Jersey deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom 2
 - 42nd Division deployed a battalion task force to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for security operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

Since beginning combat operations on February 14th, 2005, the 42nd Division and Task Force Liberty and their Iraqi partners have achieved great success and made a difference in North Central Iraq:

- Combat actions against the insurgency resulted in more than 275 terrorists killed and more than 2,000 detained. Approximately 65 detainees were wanted terrorists, including two wanted individuals by the US Central Command and two others wanted by the Multinational Forces of Iraq. Nine of the division's most wanted terrorists were captured by US or Iraqi forces this year.
- More than 425 weapons caches identified and removed from the region.
- Almost half (44%) of all Improvised Explosive Devices directed against our Soldiers are identified and destroyed.
- More than 4,500 raids and search missions and about half (45%) were conducted jointly with Iraqi forces or by Iraqi forces alone.
- Task Force Liberty partnered with the Iraqi Ministry of Defense to expand Iraqi army forces in North Central Iraq from one division, four brigades and fourteen battalions to two divisions, five brigades and eighteen battalions.
- Iraqi Joint Coordination Centers across North Central Iraq's provinces and municipalities have grown to be the focal point for security, emergency services, utilities, healthcare, elections and education services. These centers of help

receive more than 2,000 calls each week with citizen's tips and requests for government response.

- Iraqi army forces have grown more capable. More than one-third of Iraqi army battalions, three-quarters of Iraqi companies and nearly 100 percent of all Iraqi platoons evaluated as capable of planning and executing independent operations against the insurgency.
- Task Force Liberty reduced its footprint and presence across North Central Iraq. Nine Forward Operating Bases in North Central Iraq closed or transferred to Iraqi army control. The tenth facility, Forward Operating Base Danger, the former presidential compound in Tikrit, will transfer to Iraqi control in late November.
- More than 3 billion dollars in reconstruction projects committed to North Central Iraq, with nearly 1,400 projects worth 757 million dollars completed under the supervision of Task Force Liberty engineers and more than 800 projects worth 1.63 billion dollars still underway at the time of transfer of authority on Nov. 1.
- Iraqi provincial and municipal governments grew more effective, capable and confident throughout 2005, successfully conducting local city council elections, voter registration and the overseeing the October 15 referendum vote.
- Iraqi leaders are now providing Iraqi solutions to Iraqi problems. They have taken the lead in deciding and managing reconstruction projects inside the four provinces. Nearly 30 million dollars in reconstruction projects were planned, budgeted and coordinated by provincial reconstruction and development committees on each provincial council.
- Iraqi leaders are now visible to their people in their own media. Developing independent media outlets in North Central Iraq have provided a forum for government and security leaders to discuss issues with the Iraqi people.
- The Iraqi people support the democratic process. More than 220,000 Iraqis registered to vote in the referendum and election, representing a 14% increase in voter interest over the Jan. 30th vote.
- The Iraqi people reject intimidation. Voter turnout throughout North Central Iraq exceeded all IECI expectations. Approximately 76% of all registered voters in Kirkuk, As Sulayminayah, Salah Ad Din and Diyala safely went to more than 1,200 polling stations across North Central Iraq. Salah Ad Din Province, in the heart of the Sunni Triangle, had the second highest voter turnout in all of Iraq with 89% of registered voters voicing their opinion for the constitutional referendum.
- Iraqi forces have begun to provide their own security on a portion of North Central. Transfer of responsibility for security missions throughout As Sulayminayah Province to Iraqi police, army and border enforcement officers in June 2005.